

COBBETT's WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

VOL. 38.—No. 4.] LONDON, SATURDAY, JAN. 27, 1821. [Price 6d.

TO READERS

AND

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Register is published by JOHN M. COBBETT, No. 1, Clement's Inn, and will continue to be, until he can find a permanent station, more convenient for the public. The publication takes place every Saturday Morning at seven o'clock precisely. After Saturday, the 10th of February, the publication will take place at six o'clock in the Morning. After the middle of March, the publication will take place at five o'clock in the Morning.—In order to be able to send the Register by the post, and particularly with the view of getting it conveyed to *Ireland* and *Scotland*, it will be (in part) published with a stamp, in its original form, very shortly. Some previous arrangements are necessary; and, possibly, these may not be made before ~~sime time in March~~. The precise time will be announced hereafter.—

JOHN COBBETT has for sale a new edition of *Peep at the Peers*, in the same form and size as the Register; and he will publish (in same form) "The Links of the Lower House" on Thursday, the 1st Feb. price 8d. the work being much larger and more expensive than *Peep at Peers*. He has also for sale a New Edition of *Mr. Cobbett's Year's Residence in America*, the three Parts in one Volume, 10s. or the Parts separate, 4s each.—A new edition also of the Re-

gisters of the 6th and of the 13th instant, the first, containing *A New Year's Gift to the Farmers*, explaining to them the real causes of their distress; and the second, containing, a *Sermon to the Good Methodists*, on their conduct towards their *Priests* and towards their *Country*. All Letters, Parcels, or other things, for Mr. Cobbett, may be sent to his son, as above, the Letters and Parcels being free of postage and carriage, for fear of hear, this being a mode of warfare that the enemy pursues when he can; and, to defeat him we are compelled to refuse unpaid letters and parcels.—Any message, or memorandum, for Mr. Cobbett may be left with his son, who will pay particular attention to all such communications.

“ THE QUEEN'S ANSWER “ TO THE “ LETTER FROM THE KING “ TO HIS PEOPLE.”

INTRODUCTION.

No! I cannot, upon reflection, bring myself to use the *name* of Her Majesty in this way. A pamphlet has been published, entitled "a Letter from the King to his People." It bears date from "Carleton Palace." It has the King's arms at the head

I

Printed by C. CLEMENT, and published by JOHN M. COBBETT, 1, Clement's Inn.

of it. It is signed, "GEORGE." The writer addresses the people as his "*Subjects*." In short, the thing is sent forth with all the circumstances calculated to induce us to believe, that *the King* is the real writer; and, then, at the *close*, it is declared, that it is a "*literary fiction*," put forth with the "*most loyal intentions*." When I first *heard* of, and had *just seen*, this fiction, I conceived the design to give it *answer* in the *same form*; but, when I came to *read* the thing, I found it so horrible a *performance*, that I could not bring myself to put the design in execution. However, as the pamphlet contains what the enemies of the Queen appear to think *the King's case*; and as it purports to be a *true history* of this family quarrel, I think it right to notice all the parts of it, on which *common sense* and *common decency* can suffer themselves to dwell for a moment; for a great deal of it is so very foolish, so glaringly absurd, as well as so foul, as to set all commentary at defiance; and, indeed, it seems impossible, that these parts, at least, can have proceeded from any mind in a state of *sanity*. If the writer

had *praised the King*, without *censuring the Queen*, I should have said not a word upon the subject. But, his main object has been to *aspere the Queen*, and to compel her to *quit the kingdom*. Her Majesty could not condescend to notice such a *performance*; but, if she had deigned to request any one to do it, I may venture to believe, that such person, if acquainted, as I am, with so many facts, relating to the matter, would have given to this shameful attack on her Majesty, the following

ANSWER.

Mr. PARASITE,

The first three pages of your Letter are wholly unworthy of notice. But, in the fourth, you break cover: you enter into matter: you speak of the *marriage* and the almost *instant separation*. I must take your own words; for, I fear, in any case to make them *mine*, or to impute them to the king.

"Debarred thus from active
"employment, and destined to
"pass my time in *royal idleness*;
"surrounded with pleasures
"at every step, and captivated

" with beauty ; it would not be
 " the most difficult enigma to
 " solve, how I became *thought-*
 " *lessly extravagant*. Notwith-
 " standing I had experienced
 " the generosity of my country-
 " men, when twenty-four years
 " of age ; yet in nine years
 " after, my debts became again
 " the object of serious con-
 " sideration. In the midst of
 " a war then raging, expensive
 " beyond all former precedent,
 " and with no glimpse of ter-
 " mination ; when monarchy
 " throughout Europe was threat-
 " ened with annihilation ; some
 " powerful and unanswerable
 " motive, or some important
 " and ostensible good, could
 " alone justify the minister of
 " the day, in applying to Par-
 " liament for the payment of
 " the debts of an extravagant
 " Prince, for such I acknow-
 " ledge myself to have been---
 " The justification of the measure
 " was found to be in *my*
 " *marriage*.---The nation most
 " generously paid my debts,
 " made provision for such mar-
 " riage, and I became an *ex-*
 " *pedient party to the contract*.
 " For me there was *no es-*
 " *cape* ; the *interest of my cre-*
 " *ditors demanded such a sacri-*
 " *fice* ; a sacrifice of which my

" heart could only appreciate
 " the extent.---But although the
 " match *was forced*, and I was
 " left (unlike my subjects) to
 " no voluntary choice, I had
 " still a right to expect in a
 " Princess of exalted ancestry,
 " and one previously allied to
 " me by relationship, a female
 " of chaste person and *uncon-*
 " *taminated taste*.---But the morn-
 " ing which dawned on the con-
 " summation of this marriage,
 " witnessed its *virtual dissolution*.
 " ---Our daughter, the lamented
 " Princess Charlotte, *the child*
 " *of a fond and admiring nation*,
 " was born precisely at the
 " moment prescribed by nature.
 " ---Of the causes which led to
 " this immediate separation, which
 " however was *for a time* most
 " carefully concealed, and con-
 " cealed, I trust, from no un-
 " generous feeling on my part,
 " it does not belong to me to
 " detail the explanation. But
 " who beside ourselves was
 " interested in it ? Surely the
 " family of the illustrious female
 " in question ! Did they com-
 " plain ? Did they remonstrate ?
 " Did they demand a restitution
 " of conjugal rights between us ?
 " Did they interfere to conciliate,
 " to palliate, to explain ? Never.
 " By their silence then was I

"*justified* in requiring at a
"proper moment, a *more openly*
"*avowed separation*. *The first*
"*wrong was done to me.*"

This, mind, I do not regard as the language of the king. It is not on *his* words and sentiments that I am about to comment; but, on those of some officious slave, who may think, perhaps, that he is doing what will please the king; but which, as I shall show, has a direct tendency to destroy all remaining reverence for the kingly office, and to imprint an everlasting stain on His Majesty's character.

How can it, with truth, be said, that the king, when young, was "*debarred from active employment, and destined to pass his time in royal idleness?*" Surely the same may be said, with as much truth, of every heir of a *Peer*; and, then, we are in a pretty state indeed, having two out of the three branches of the Legislatures, "*destined to idleness, thoughtlessness, and extravagance.*" Have "*Republicans and Levellers*" asserted any thing equal to this? What, had the king, when young, no inducement to *study*? Was history, were the laws, were all the

sciences beneath his notice? Could there, in this country of arts, manufactures, commerce and agriculture, be nothing found to engage the thoughts of a young man, *destined* by the laws to be a *king*? Monstrous! and, if the fact were not false, what a satire, what a stain on both head and heart of His Majesty!

But, now we come to the *motive* to the marriage. The king, you say, consented to "*the contract*" for the sake of his *auditors*. This, you say, was his motive. This demanded "*the sacrifice.*" This is a horrible libel on the king, and especially when published in *his name*, and dated from *his Palace*. But, what "*sacrifice*" did the interest of the creditors demand? A *sacrifice of what?* I want to know what it was that he *sacrificed*; for, in the whole history of the transactions, I in vain look for any *sacrifice* on the part of the king; and the only *victim* that I can see is the unfortunate *wife*, and subsequent *mother*. Had the king, indeed, disliked his bride; and had he, nevertheless, still lived with her, supporting all the appearances of content in this respect; had he subdued his own feelings so far as never to

suffer them to give offence to the wife ; had he done every other thing necessary to keep the dislike unknown to the world : then, indeed, there would have been a *sacrifice* on his part, though the calling of it a *sacrifice* might still have been going too far ; for it would have been the mere performance of a *duty*, and of a very sacred duty too. But, what *sacrifice* could there be, when the morning, that dawned on the *consummation* of the marriage, witnessed its virtual *dissolution*? Could this short space of restraint be called a *sacrifice*? And that, too, be it observed, when the husband himself, according to his own letter to the wife, had nothing to alledge, except his *uncontrollable inclinations* ?

There was “*no escape*,” you say, for the king. “*Escape*” from what? The *interest* of his creditors *demanded* the marriage! Good God! what a declaration to put forth under the name of the king! And is this to be tolerated? Is it to be published, in the king’s name, that he actually did marry *in order to get his Debts paid*! Was ever declaration so shameless as this? Talk of obligation to creditors, indeed! What was this obligation, when compared with the

obligation, contracted towards the wife? To creditors the debtor was bound as other debtors are. The debt arose out of the things received on the one side, and delivered on the other side. The creditors had, doubtless, the usual prospect of *gain* in view, and a more than ordinary security for payment. But, what was the nature of the obligation towards the wife? Why, a most solemn contract to *love*, to *cherish*, to *honour*, to *obey*, to *worship* with his body, to abide by in *sickness* and in *health*, to abstain from all others, and to *keep to her alone*, as long as the parties both should live. What, compared with this, was the obligation to creditors? and, was this obligation towards the wife to be considered as nothing ; as a thing to be contracted as a mere “*expeditient*” in order to *get money from the nation to pay debts with*! Really, to state this, and to state it *in the king’s name too* ; to put these words into the king’s mouth ; to make them drop from his pen, and to cause it, or endeavour to cause it, to be believed, that the king is the real author of such sentiments ; this is something too monstrous to be credited, if we had not the fact before our eyes.

In another part of the *Letter*, the king is made speak thus to his people, on the subject of *leaving the Queen's name out of the Liturgy*, and we shall see how it squares with the foregoing. "When the powers "of my regency merged in the "succession to the throne, one "of the first duties devolving "upon me as a head of the "Church, was "to settle ac- "cording to the Act of Uni- "formity, such parts of the "Liturgy as were affected by "the decease of my venerable "Father the King of blessed "memory." How *lightly* have "too many of my subjects "thought of the feelings by "which their sovereign must have "been influenced upon so solemn "an occasion! How *inconsi- derately* have too many of my "subjects viewed this *vital act of religion* as a mere matter of "form, requiring only a dash of "the pen! How *narrowly* have "too many of my subjects con- "fined their *sense of this form*, "within the bounds of custom "and precedent! How *blindly* "have too many of my subjects "viewed this *act of devotional formulary*.—And how com- "pletely have too many of "my subjects separated the act

"to be done, from him upon "whom fell the *most painful duty* of its performance!— "Behold then, your Sovereign, "in the presence of that God "to whom all hearts are open; "required by the first servant "of our holy national Church, "to sanction as head of "that Church, a formulary, in "which the thousands and tens "of thousands, and millions of his "subjects were to *address their prayers, and praises, and supplications to the King of Kings*."

Now, compare this with what the *Parasite* has said about the marriage of *expediency*; the marriage *to get money to pay debts*; compare the two, and what an odious *hypocrite* would this writer make the king appear to be! He first represents his Majesty as having married *solely* to get money to pay his debts; and as having *virtually dissolved* the marriage in *twelve hours after the consummation*. It represents him as having broken the most solemn of all contracts; as having gone to the altar, and there in the presence of God, made vows the most solemn, and of breaking those vows directly afterwards, having made them with the view of instantly breaking them: and, after this,

it represents this same man as impressed with so deep a sense of the importance of *religious forms*; as so conscientiously alive to religious duties; so filled with the fear of doing any thing to offend *God*; so replete with pious and reverential awe in the discharge of his duties, as to refuse the insertion of his wife's name in the Liturgy of the Church, lest she should afterwards be found not to be a woman of *strictly moral conduct*; while he has no scruple whatever to cause his *own name* to be inserted in that Liturgy! The reader will bear in mind, that they are not the words, the declarations, of his Majesty, that we have been reading; but of some corrupt parasite; and, that this picture of the most odious hypocrisy, and, indeed of the most glaring blasphemy, put forth under the king's name and signature, has been put forth by one, who *abuses the Reformers*, and accuses them of designs to pull down the Church and the Throne!

But, as relating to the *case of her Majesty*, how important would the declarations here brought forward be, if they really had *come from the king*, as this *Parasite* would have us believe they do! Here, we are told (and under the king's name too), that the marriage was

one of *expediency* on the part of the king; that it was *forced*; that it was *virtually dissolved* the *next morning*. Now, if we were to believe this; if we were, as this writer would have us, to believe, that the king has said this, what more should we want to account for *all the long train of persecutions against her Majesty*? What enemy of the king suggested this statement, then? This is a *real enemy* of the king. This is an enemy of the Throne, indeed. He brutally says, in another part of his book, that the king *loathed* the Queen. If so, what need should we have to seek further for a *cause* for all these accusations against her Majesty? And, how imperiously should we be called on to stand forward in her defence? Here we should see clearly the *origin* of all the tales, all the slanders, all the machinations; all the conspiracies and all the swearings, that have filled all the civilized world with disgust and horror. It is for the king's friends to disown, and for his law-officers to punish, the author, of these intolerably outrageous attacks, upon his motives and his character, made under his own name; or, those friends must not be surprised to find, that unwary persons, imposed upon by the

boldness of the imposture, give credence to the statement, draw the natural conclusions, and bestow detestation and abhorrence on him, whom it is fitting they should behold with affection and speak of with reverence.

However, after all, every thing in these declarations, made in the king's name, sinks out of sight, when compared with the *base* and *black-guard* insinuations contained in them against her Majesty. There is something so vile, so filthy, so beastly, so much worse than brutal in that to which I allude, that I cannot proceed further to notice it, without begging pardon of both King and Queen even for attempting to describe the infamy of the pretended friend of the former and the avowed assailant of the latter.

The task must, however, be performed: let us, then, take a look at the horrid words: "Though the match was *forced*, I had still a right to expect a female of *chaste person* and *uncontaminated taste*." As to *taste*, that is a thing wholly unreducible to any standard. But, he proceeds: "but, the morning which dawned on the consummation of the marriage witnessed its *virtual dissolution*. Our daughter, the child of a fond admiring nation,

" was born precisely at the moment " prescribed by nature. *Of the causes* which led to this immediate separation, it does not " belong to me to detail the explanation." And then the king is made to say, "The first wrong " was done to me."

Wives, look at this! *Husbands*, even the most unfeeling, profligate, base and abandoned, look at this; and say, whether even ruffian, in stew begotten and in brothel bred, ever was yet found so shamelessly infamous as to deal in insinuations like these: and, when you have answered this question, say what is due to the men, who have written, printed and published a book, putting these insinuations into the mouth of the King, and sending them forth under his royal signature!

All, the reader will perceive, was discovered *between the evening and the morning*? It is here clearly insinuated, that the King discovered want of chastity; for, it is asserted, and the words are marked by *italicks*, that the *first wrong* was done to him. The remark as to the *precise moment* of the birth of the Princess Charlotte, and the calling of her "the child of a fond admiring nation," admit of some latitude of interpretation; but, coupled with the

other parts of the statement, to what a sum of infamous calumny does the whole amount; and to what horrid ideas would they not give rise in the mind of any one who had been imposed upon by the *signature* and the *date* of this nefarious publication; which, observe, has come forth with the *King's arms* at the head of it; dated at *Carleton Palace*; and with an imprint, purporting, that it is published by *TURNER*, the *King's Stationer*, and sold by *SAMS*, bookseller to *His Royal Highness the Duke of York*! The audacity of this is beyond every thing ever before supposed possible; and yet, it would seem, that *five editions* have been suffered to go abroad with as little interruption as just so many *Religious Tracts*!

However, leaving his Majesty's character to be, on this occasion, defended by his law-officers, let me, begging his Majesty's pardon even for noticing the foul calumny, proceed to inquire a little into the *possible foundation* of that calumny.

Only a *few hours* passed, it is asserted, while the parties were alone. The context necessarily implies this, even if the assertion had not been made. The *discovery* could not have been made

before the consummation of the marriage; for in *that case*, what horrid baseness in the husband must the consummation imply! Could it *possibly* be made *afterwards*? Could the proof of the *first wrong* be discovered *after* the consummation, and yet *before the dawn of day*? Surgeons in the pursuit of their necessary studies; butchers in the cutting up of carcases, find themselves compelled to familiarize their minds with the ideas here awakened; but was there ever before heard of a man so audacious as to impute such brutality of thought and of language to a *husband*? The *husband* himself, if such an one could be found upon earth, must raise against him the voice of all woman kind, and must flee from society as a monster unfit to be suffered to live except amongst brutes. And yet a prince, famed for accomplished manners, priding himself on those accomplishments alledged, even in this very book, to be uncommonly sensible to the power of female charms, and of *exquisite niceness* in point of *taste*, is here, by some unknown *Parasite*, aided and abettet by the *King's Stationer* and the *Duke of York's Bookseller*, exhibited to the world as speaking of the *secrets of the wedding night*, and

that, too, in a way, that would, if imitated by a drunken Sailor in a Portsmouth-Point Brothel, send the beastly blackguard neck and heels into the street.

To make, however, *common sense* of this imputation against her Majesty, the proof of *a want of chastity* must have been discovered *before* the wedding night. For that alone is reconcileable with the *first wrong* as here alledged, and the *immediate separation*; unless we go upon the supposition, that the king had very sedulously studied as an *accoucheur*. Yet, if the discovery took place *before the marriage*, where was the *taste*, and where the *fine sentiment*, that could endure the marriage ceremony? Oh! that was *compelled* by justice due to the *poor creditors*! Indeed! And did justice to the creditors; did *their interest* produce the *consummation* too! Never was there so scrupulously honest a debtor in the whole! The thing, if not a barefaced blackguard lie, from the beginning to the end, would certainly be a miracle; which, indeed, is the only objection to a great many other of the miracles, witnessed by us and our forefathers. But, then, if the *consummation* did not take place; and even this

would appear to be insinuated by this Parasite; if the consummation did not take place, what is the necessary conclusion? Why, that the *Princess Charlotte* was what I will not even name! And this, I think, caps the climax of infamy in the way of insinuation; while, if we believed the Letter to be what it calls itself, it would, when we recollect the accounts of the king's sorrow at the death of that royal lady, hold him forth as the most consummate hypocrite that ever disgraced the human form. But, our consolation is, that the whole of the story is a lie; a complicated lie, invented for the purpose of injuring the Queen, without, apparently, caring one single straw about the injury likely to be done to the king: and yet this abominable book is published by the *King's Stationer* and sold by the *Duke of York's Bookseller*.

Before I quit this *expose de motifs* as to the *instant virtual dissolution* of the marriage, let me advert to another part of the book, where the king is represented as speaking of her Majesty as an object of *loathing*. There is another passage, which has made me *laugh*: “The Queen is growing old. We are both beyond the *hey-day* of

“*life.*” What! the king is not growing *old*, I suppose! Oh, no! It is not *polite* to call him *old*; nor is it *loyal*; for the king “*never dies.*” But, the Queen, being only a *subject*, dies like other folks: of course she is growing *old*; and, as far as I have observed, this is the only *true* remark respecting her, from the beginning to the end of the Letter, so audaciously inscribed to the king.

As to her Majesty having, however, been an object of *loathing*, to be sure, large allowances are to be made for *taste*. But, who that *ever saw* her Majesty, at any time of her life, will not say, that this description is not most gross and malicious abuse? I saw the Queen, just twenty years ago last Thursday week. I was so placed (in the Privy Chamber, I think, they call it), at St. James’ Palace, as to see all the persons going to the late Queen’s Drawing Room; and, after seeing great numbers pass, I asked who that “*pretty, gay little lady was,*” and was told, that it was the *Princess of Wales*. I thought her the most beautiful of the whole; and I will not attempt to describe my feelings with regard to him, who could be voluntarily separated

from such a wife. I never saw her Majesty from that time, ‘till I saw her coming up Shooter’s Hill, on the memorable sixth of June last, when I recognised in her face all that good-humour and all that vivacity, which had so much pleased me in 1801.

As to what is *beautiful* and what is *not*, there is no standard. All depends upon *taste*; and our tastes vary with our characters, which are as various as are the wild plants of the field. But, I know what my own taste in female beauty is, and I will describe it. A woman, five feet two inches high (without her shoes) half an inch more or less. Plump, even when young, and prone to crum, rather than crust, as she increases in years. Small-boned, small hand, and small nimble feet, and giving evident proofs, that the fruit of her love are not, for want of an ample natural supply, to be banished to a hireling breast. Sprightly eyes of I care not what colour; features that speak; a voice at once feminine and firm; a laugh that banishes melancholy from my abode; a temper that sets disguise at defiance; a *will*, that, by its ripplings, prevents life from becoming a stagnant pool; a heart that shews its tenderness, not in sighs and whines,

but in excessive fondness for children and in active boldness at the bed-side of the yellow-fever or the plague ; and, if I cannot preserve that heart, I am unworthy to enjoy its possessor.

That this is *my* taste I have given the best possible proof ; and, it is well known, that her Majesty might have sitten for the picture. I had, on Monday, the opportunity of seeing her Majesty, from a distance of about four yards, for a whole *hour*, or more ; and, independent of her station and the interesting circumstances connected with the occasion that brought me, among so many others, into her presence, I saw in her a beautiful woman. Not a *doll* ; not an immovable thing, made of wax, with glass eyes stuck on its face. But a living being ; a being with features that *tell what is passing in the heart*. No *affectation* about her ; all is goodness, real graciousness ; and, still, all is dignity ; every thing to inspire affection and to rivet attachment. And, when one reflects on all she has undergone ; on all her sufferings, all her dangers, and on her fortitude and her bravery, is it possible to refrain from exerting in her service whatever we possess of talent or of strength ? No man of

unperverted mind can now behold the Queen without feeling eager to serve her and proud to yield her respect and obedience.

And yet this *Parasite* has the audacity to tell the People, and under the King's name, too, that this royal lady, is an object of *loathing* ! However, this is no more than a repetition of one of the blackguard assertions, made so incessantly at the West End of London, for many years, previous to her Majesty's arrival. I heard, years ago, of a *book* kept in a certain *house*, where people might go and read the evidence given *against* her, by the perjured wretches in 1806 ; but, where they were not shown any of the statements in her *defence*. There has been a perfect *system* for calumniating the Queen ; and, had not "*the Book*" been published in 1813, it seems impossible for her to have been preserved.

Having now done with what may be called the *brutal* part of this performance, I shall proceed to such of the rest as are at all worthy of notice. The writer attempts to justify the proceedings of 1806, upon the ground of *numerous rumors* ; but, the worst of it is, that the *Tribunal to try her conduct sat and de-*

eided without ever hearing her in her defence.

The main charge, lurking behind, is, that, in 1813, the Queen became a *politician*; that she made the domestic dispute a question of *factious politics*; and that, therefore, she then forfeited all claim to any species of indulgence; though by-the-by, I never heard, that her Majesty ever asked for any indulgence.

This is, however, a curious charge; and, as the reader will presently see, as unfounded as all the rest. There is a very pretty passage that precedes this charge against the Queen, and in this passage her alledged political interfering is ascribed to the *Whigs*! It is fitting that both King and Queen should know the *real* facts of the case, which I am very certain they do not, and which I am also certain, that nobody will, or can, state to them, except *myself*. But, first, let us hear what this writer in the King's name says on the subject; for, here is the *apology* for not taking the *Whigs* into power in 1812, when the Prince became Regent. "The distinguished characters with whom, in my earlier years, I had intimately associated, had created in the public mind, a widely ex-

" tended, and readily believed
" opinion, that when the sceptre
" of my Father should descend
" to me, I should, from among
" those associates, *have chosen*
" *the members of my administration*. During the discussion
" of the terms of the regency, I
" was careful to avoid giving any
" pledge of the line of policy I
" might find it expedient to
" adopt. A short previous ad-
" ministration, composed of
" those political friends by whom
" it was conjectured my coun-
" cils would have been directed,
" had enabled me to form some
" opinion of their executive ta-
" lents; and notwithstanding,
" an overture was made by me
" to them, to propose an ad-
" ministration. But when I found
" the conditions required would
" have reduced me to a mere
" *political automaton*, of which
" they were to possess the key;
" that not content with forming
" the administration, they re-
" quired also, that I should be
" surrounded in my household by
" *their adherents*, and left to no
" choice in the appointment of
" my own attendants; when
" with this, I compared the
" *candour* and the *unequivocal*
" *absence of all personal feeling*
" with which the bill creating

" the regency was carried by
 " the then ministry ; and above
 " all, the *frank, loyal* and *re-*
 " *spectful regret* which was
 " shewn to the calamity of my
 " revered *Parent* ; and the *so im-*
 " *mediate provision made for the*
 " *resumption by him of the regal*
 " *dignity*, that should it have
 " pleased Providence so to have
 " restored him ; my Royal Fa-
 " ther would have awokened, as
 " if from a dream, and have
 " found himself unreminded of
 " his affliction ; when to this I
 " added the important consid-
 " ration, that *the flame of free-*
 " *dom was beginning to glimmer*
 " *in Spain* ; that the then ad-
 " ministration were prepared to
 " take advantage of every cir-
 " cunstance favourable to the
 " destruction of the military ty-
 " rant of Europe ; and when all
 " these various considerations
 " were upheld by the *weight of*
 " *personal character which was*
 " *contained in the then cabinet* ;
 " I felt sufficiently justified in not
 " suffering *former prepossessions*
 " to stand for one moment in
 " the way of newly created du-
 " ties. I felt that an existing ex-
 " perienced executive, was, at
 " such a time, safer than a theo-
 " retical cabinet. I had also a
 " doubt in my own mind, whe-

" ther, during my Sovereign's
 " life, I ought, as Regent, to
 " adopt the principles of those
 " who had been violently op-
 " posed to my Royal Father's
 " measures, or pursue a line of
 " policy unchanged, *and such as*
 " *my King would have continued*
 " had he remained the active
 " head of the Empire. This was
 " a feeling of THE HEART ;
 " it was MINE."

Reader, bear in mind, that it is not *the king* who says this ; and, therefore, if you can suppress your contempt for the writer, you may *laugh* at it as long as you please. Compare this wretched stuff with the language of the *Queen*, when her Majesty puts pen to paper. However, here you have this man's *reasons* for the king's not choosing his servants from amongst his *old friends*, in 1812. And then, you are told by this *Parasite*, that the rejection of these *old friends* caused the matrimonial differences " *to be con-*
 " *verted* into a political attack
 " upon the king's authority." Nothing can be more false than this. The *Whigs*, as a party, never took the part of the Queen. Mr. *Whitbread* did ; but the *Whigs* never did. *Perceval* and his party had, indeed,

taken her part. By so doing they had put the Whigs out in 1807; and if Perceval had been *put out*, in 1812, when the Prince became Regent, he would, without doubt, *have brought her case forward again!* Nobody can doubt of this; and, therefore, it is not quite impossible, that this, amongst others, might be a *reason* for the king rejecting his *old friends*, and for keeping Perceval and his people in power; a reason pretty nearly as powerful, perhaps, as the “ favoring of the “ *cause of freedom in Spain.*” The Whigs could not, as things then stood, very well take part with the Princess. It was *under them* that the *Inquiry* took place in 1806; therefore, they, *though out*, could not well meddle with a matter, which, *if it all came out*, made against them very much, as they then stood. So that, by *keeping in* Perceval and his men, *both parties would naturally remain quiet as to the princess.* This is what *did* happen; and what a deal, then, has the affair of this Lady had to do in the great concerns of this country, for many years past!

But, it is very true, that, at the epoch here alluded to, the affair of the Queen did make a *great stir*, and was fast going on to mix

itself with politics. It is also true, that that which was done at that time *laid the foundation* of all the popular support, that her Majesty has now received; and, it is further true, that the prime mover in what was then done was not Peter Moore nor Edward Ellice nor the heroes Brougham and Denman, but that it was *myself*, which, I am sure, will be a piece of news to the King, the Queen, the Ministry, the Whigs, and the People. And now I will relate the facts, precisely as they took place; and, when, reader, you have heard them, you will exclaim, with some character in Shakespeare, “ how “ poor a thing may do a noble “ office !” And you will recollect the *mouse*, in the fable, that let the *lion* loose from the *toils* of his hunters.

In 1807, the result of the investigation began to make some noise; and the Morning Post had violently attacked the *Douglases*. Sir John Douglas wrote to me protesting, that all the swearings were true; and I, in consequence of that, published some articles bearing on that side, though the whole amount of what was known at that time was little more than mere rumour. Perceval came into power; all was *hushed up*; and the public remained in total

darkness, until 1812 ; the period above referred to by this *Parasite*.

In 1811, I had gotten possession of all the material parts of "THE BOOK." When, therefore, the Prince became Regent, I endeavoured to bring the matter forward, by insisting on the propriety of the Princess *holding her courts*, as the Prince, her husband was now holding his. My motive in this was, my conviction of her innocence from what I had seen in "the Book," and also my opinion, that, if she did not hold her courts *then*, she *never* would ; and the foundation of my opinion was this: that, if "the Book" lay hidden many years from the eyes of the People, if the Princess remained *silent*, 'till the Prince became *king*, the people would, at least, think that there was *a something* to hide ; and that they would easily acquiesce in her degradation. Besides, the *witnesses* might all die. The *Lords* of the Commission might die. Not a single copy of "the Book" might be left in existence ; and, there might remain to the Princess no possible chance of obtaining even a hearing.

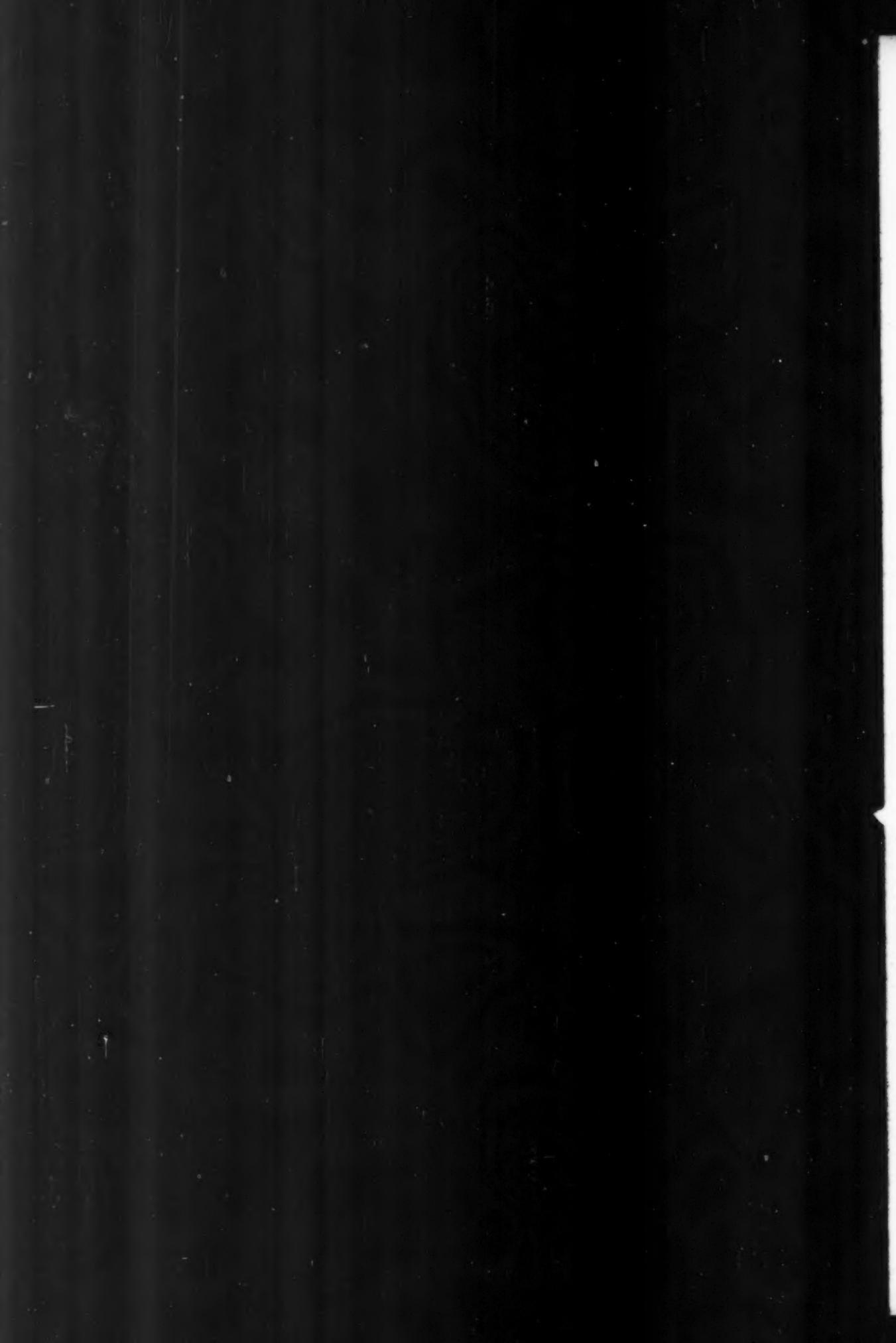
An opportunity for *starting* the question offered, when *Addressess* to the Prince were pre-

sented on his being appointed *Regent*. I contended, that *addresses* ought also to be presented to the *Princess* ; and, in the City of London, by a worthy Alderman, *always her friend*, some movements were made towards this measure. These were counteracted by movements on the part of *others*, whom it is not necessary now to point out ; and, thus, no *addresses* were, at that time presented to the *Princess*.

In 1813, when all was settled down into tranquillity with regard to this affair ; when not a word was said about the *Princess*, the thing was again put in motion, and "the Book" was forced out in the following manner.

Mr. Cochrane Johnstone was, at that time, a *Member of Parliament* ; and to him I proposed the measure of bringing forward a motion in parliament, such as should *compel* an *open* and *explicit* declaration, in Parliament, of the *innocence* of the *Princess*, and of the *falsehood of the charges preferred against her in 1806*. Mr. JOHNSTONE, who was a gallant and active and zealous and honest politician, caught at any proposition. The nature of the motion was settled between





us at his house in Alsop's Buildings about twelve o'clock; and, in five hours afterwards, he had given notice of his motion in the House of Commons! It was a real pleasure to have to act with this gentleman. Always sober; always up early; *always ready*; always decisive and prompt; and never moping in despair. Never was a man more calumniated than Mr. Johnstone has been.

The motion consisted of *two Resolutions*; and though, certainly, they did appear to be *wholly uncalled for* by any thing then before the public, still they had enough of *plausibility* in them to raise a *long debate*, his part of which the mover performed with admirable dexterity. Mr. Whitbread took the matter up; the Douglasses were roughly handled; the Lords Commissioners did not escape; and, in short, the subject engaged the exclusive attention of the public.

We (who were in possession of "*the book*" ourselves) only wanted to get *that Book* into the *hands of the public*, and through a channel not our own. Care was taken to work into the Resolutions enough to excite uncommon curiosity; and, at last, so much

was drawn out in the Debates, that it was better, even for the enemies of the Princess, to *publish the whole*. Accordingly, *out came the Book*, first from the shop of Mr. Jones, I think it was, in Newgate Street, and, afterwards, from every shop in the kingdom.

This was what I wanted. The PEOPLE were now the *judges*. We, of the *press*, had now *matter* whereon to work openly! We had before been compelled to confine ourselves to *suppositions* and *hints*. But now we had all the facts and circumstances; we had the history of the Investigation; we had the *evidence*; we had the Princess's defence in her Letters to the King; and, we were enabled to maintain her cause boldly and *effectually*.

This was a most important service rendered to the Princess; and, I say this without any scruple, because I am *sure*, that I shall never accept of reward, in any shape, or of any kind, at her hands. It was a most important service, because it made the *People* her *judges*; because it established her innocence; because it excited, in her favour, those feelings, which never ceased to exist in the public breast; with which feelings she was received at Dover; and which feelings

heightened by additional wrongs, heaped on her, have now saved her from total degradation.

Let any one suppose the case of a *continued suppression* of “*the Book*” until this day. The *rumours* for the last six years, added to her unaccountable *silence* of a preceding eight years, would have made a general *presumption of her guilt* certain. Look at the *great argument*, in answer to the charges of the Bill and the *swearings* of the Italian Witnesses. What has it been? Why, that *heavier charges and tougher swearings* were brought against her in 1806; and, that **THEY** were *all false!* This has been the *great argument* with the press, and round every fire-side. But, this argument never could have existed, if Mr. JOHNSTONE and *myself* had not *forced out the Book*. For, be it known, that I had *tried*, in 1812, more than one other Member of Parliament to do that which Mr. Cochrane Johnstone did, in 1813. They would not *stir*. Timidity; laziness; something always defeated my project. But, Mr. Johnstone was a man of *action*, and he feared nobody.

Let not the friends of the King, therefore, blame the *Whigs* for this *stir* in 1813; for they, poor things, were as innocent as the

child unborn, not only of all act, or part, in the making of the *stir*, but of all knowledge of the source whence the thing sprang. The public applauded Mr. Whitbread, and very justly; but, he was, upon this occasion, no more than *a puppet*, put in motion by us. I enjoyed exceedingly the seeing of the big talkers at work like bees in a tar-barrel to extricate themselves from the confusion, into which we had thrown them. Let not the poor *Whigs* be blamed for this signal service to the Queen; for babes at the breast were not more clear of the sin than they.

As to the Queen, her Majesty has never known, I am very sure, the source of the exertions in her favour in 1813. But, we had *other schemes* which, if they had been adopted, would have enabled her, to a certainty, *to hold her court in 1813*; and which would, of course, have prevented her from going abroad, and have spared her, the king, and the nation all that has happened in consequence of that unwise and almost insane step, which the advice of Canning induced her to take.

When “*the Book*” had been published, the Princess stood triumphant. *That was the time*,

therefore, for her to take the measures necessary to the full enjoyment of her rights. These measures, however, must have come from herself; and, to submit them fairly and fully to her, she must have been *seen* and *spoken to* by the person who had the measures to submit. Mr. Johnstone endeavoured, but *in vain*, to obtain an audience of her Royal Highness. He applied, for this purpose, to a *Countess*, then upon intimate terms with the Princess. A *Great Don*, who was admitted to her Royal Highness's presence was also applied to. These great personages had, doubtless, their own views; and, notwithstanding the reproof given in the fable, by the Ox to the Cur, they so contrived the matter, that Mr. Johnstone could get *no audience*; while his parliamentary puppet, Mr. WHIT-BREAD, was the Burleigh of the Princess's cabinet; and while this Burleigh was so managing the matter as to *weary* and *disgust* the Princess, and to make her ready to listen to any advice, that would remove her from the sound of the voices of prosing, shilly-shally councillors.

The Princess saw herself *acquitted*; she heard the public loud in her behalf, and as loud

against her enemies; she saw that she was *completely triumphant*; but, still she saw, amidst this multitude of words, that nothing was **DONE** for her; that no one even **PROPOSED TO DO** any thing for her; and that, though *innocent* and *injured*, she was still to be *degraded!* Was not this enough to fill her with *disgust*? It was enough to fill any body with *disgust*; and what, then, must the effect of it have been upon a person of **uncommon** decision, **promptitude** and **spirit**, and that person an *injured* Princess too?

Had Mr. Johnstone found his way to the Princess, ten minutes would have decided the matter. She would have had no *prosing*; no *lecturing*; no melancholy-engendering forebodings. The path would have been clearly marked out for her; and all that has happened since convinces one that she would have pursued it. It was the path of **reason**, of **honor**, of **true dignity**; the path of *peace*, too, for the Prince as well as for herself. But she had fallen not "*amongst thieves*;" indeed; but *amongst prosers*; *amongst lesson-mongers*; and *everlasting procrastinators*; amongst men, who are always miserable if they have not some-

thing to *debate* about; and, really, whose only fear seems to be, that their debating should *cause something to be done*.

Thus have I given a true account of the stir in 1813; and from it the reader will see, what a poor shuffle it is, on the part of this *Parasite*, to accuse the *Whigs* of making the king's "matrimonial differences a subject of political attack" on him. The Princess *herself* knew not the real source of the agitation, and she must now laugh at the exposition of this adventure of her life. At any rate, I have here clearly shown, that she had no hand in producing the agitations of 1813; and, that, therefore, this charge, like all the rest, has its foundation in falsehood and malignity.

The remaining part of the Letter of the *Parasite*, published by the king's stationer, in the king's name (oh, audacity!) is so very absurd; it savours so strongly of *drunkenness* or of *insanity*, that I cannot bring myself to notice it otherwise than in general description. It represents the King as personating the *future historian*, and writing this part of the *history of his own reign!* Then it represents [him as supposing, *first*, that the

Queen will be supported in her claims by the Parliament; that her name will be restored to the Liturgy; and that she will hold her court. *Second*, that she will not be supported by the Parliament; that a *negociation (a la Protocol)* will be renewed; and that she will go out of the country in so *silent* a manner, that the people will hear nothing of the matter 'till she is safely landed in France. In the *first case, revolution, blood, and atheism*, are anticipated as the final effects. In the *second case*, are predicted *harmony, peace, plenty, and everlasting prosperity and happiness!*

Was there ever so mad a wretch as this *Parasite*! To comment on such matter would really be like going to Bedlam and arguing with the inmates there. All that remains, then, is to dismiss this at once audacious and stupid and beastly performance, with the expression of a hope, that, as this is the *first*, so it will be the *last*, time, that one will dare thus to vilify the Queen under the *name* of the king; to date his production from the *very Palace of the king*; and cause it to be published by the *King's stationer*, and sold by the *Duke of York's bookseller*.

Having the pen in hand, however, I cannot refrain from observing shortly on what has, since I began this paper, passed, in Parliament, with regard to her Majesty, the Queen. The king has merely called on the Parliament to make a *pecuniary provision for her Majesty*. Unquestionably this ought to come from the *Civil List Allowance*; because that allowance contemplates a king *and a queen*. It is not granted to a *Bachelor*, or a *Widowed King*. It is granted, as it was to the late king, for the support of him, wife and children. Therefore, and especially at the present time, let us hope, that since circumstances do, unhappily, prevent the Royal Parties from living together, the separate allowance to Her Majesty will come from that already settled on the king.

But, besides a sufficient *pecuniary allowance*, there will, doubtless, be something in the way of *real property* granted to Her Majesty. It appears, that she has purchased the *lease* of *Marlborough House*. This House and its Gardens and Yard **LONG TO THE PUBLIC**. The Duke of Marlborough rents the whole of *our Stewards*, for *75l. a year!* Yes, *seventy-five*

pounds! The lease, which was granted in 1785, expires in 15 years time. The PRINCE of COBOURG pays, not *seventy-five* pounds, but *three thousand*, a year, to the Duke! So that *the Public* is a pretty *easy landlord!* However, the Queen has *bought* the lease; the Prince, her son-in-law, is her Majesty's *tenant* now; and, there can be *no doubt*, I should think, of his having, at once, *agreed to give up this convenient place to her Majesty*. Thus her Majesty will have a suitable residence in town; and, surely *one* of the many Palaces in the *country* will be allotted to her Majesty.

Besides, the *late Queen* had granted to her *for life*, *the Manor of Richmond in Surrey, and also the Office of Steward and Keeper of the Courts of the said Manor, and all Demesne Lands and other Lands in Lease*.—Now, these have all fallen in *to the public* by the death of the *late Queen*; and, what so proper; what so suitable in all respects; what so likely to conciliate the people, as to grant them, for life, to her present Majesty? There is no subject on which I would sooner petition parliament than this; but, I hope, that every

step of this sort will be rendered wholly unnecessary by the steps, which His Majesty himself appears to be disposed to take, if I am to judge from his *truly gracious* (though *not quite grammatical*) Speech to the Parliament.

A palace, a suitable allowance from the Civil List, the Manor of Richmond, and the name in the Liturgy seem, now, thank God, to be all that remain wanting to putting an end for ever to this unhappy family dispute, which never ought to have been known to the world, and which it has filled with scandalous and disgraceful details. The king comes, at last, and tells the parliament and the world, that he regards the *attachment of his people* as the *best safeguard of his throne*; and truly says, that he *has that attachment*. His Majesty thus rebukes the slanderers of his faithful and dutiful people, and, in so doing, he gives us a pledge of his sincere and ardent desire to restore to us all the rights, of which we have been deprived, during the last twenty-seven years. That *conciliation*, which, with my feeble voice, I have recommended for so many years, seems, at last, to be becoming “the order of the day.”

As to the “question of the *Liturgy*,” I hope it will be *no question at all*. It is said, that the French used to laugh at JAMES II. for his having quarrelled with his subjects for the sake of a *Mass*. A quarrel about the *Liturgy* would be a great deal more ridiculous. All is now settled but *this*; and, surely, this ought not to stand in the way of a restoration of harmony! The Ministers are not conjurers, to be sure; but they know the worth of their places; and, will they risk them for this? They must know, that long *debates* about *Collects* and *Prayers* will give a dreadful shock to the *Hierarchy*. They must know, that, if they persist, a considerable portion of the people will *quit the Church*. They must know, that they must yield *at last*, or yield their places. And, surely, they will then, *yield, and keep their places as long as they can*. They may be *forced* out by other means; but, why force themselves out? They would, I think, carry their question on the *Liturgy* at *first*; but, they would be beat out of it at last; and then out of their places at the same time.

Let me indulge the hope, that, before the next Number of this work will come from the press,

all disputes relative to the Queen will have been put an end to by the act of his Majesty himself; and this will be much more likely to do him honour, than books, abusing his Royal Consort, published under *his name*, issued by a man calling himself *his Stationer*, and sold by another, calling himself *the bookseller of the Duke of York*.

WM. COBBETT.

ADDRESSES TO THE QUEEN.

On Monday, the 22nd instant Major *Cartwright*, Mr. *Wooler*, and *myself* presented addresses to Her Majesty from the females of *Blackburn in Lancashire*, and those of *Newcastle upon Tyne*, signed, I think, by more than *seventeen thousand persons*. I presented an address from *Lymington*, Hants; one from the Reformers of *Great Yarmouth*; and one from the *Methodist Friendly Society of Bury Saint Edmunds*.—Her Majesty's gracious answers to the three latter I have duly forwarded; Major *Cartwright* or Mr. *Wooler* will forward the answers to the two former. I return the whole of

the Addressers my best thanks for the honour, which they conferred on me, upon this occasion: in the presenting of these addresses pleasure was blended with duty. Her Majesty appeared to be in perfect health and to be animated with the highest spirits. Indeed, she saw quite enough to gratify the wishes of any human being. No Queen ever received such proofs of affection and attachment; and yet, her Majesty has received from us nothing more than has been justly her due.—I wish that some of the *Bourbons* could see the way, in which Englishmen treat her, whom *they* had the *ingratitude* to insult.—However, her Majesty has taught us to look down on them with disdain.

PROCEEDINGS IN PARLIAMENT.

Tuesday, 23rd Jan.

The king opened the Parliament with the following speech, delivered in person.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—I have the satisfaction of acquainting you, that I continue to receive from Foreign Powers the strongest assurances of their friendly disposition towards this country.—It will be a matter of deep regret to me, if the

occurrences which have lately taken place in Italy should eventually lead to any interruption of tranquillity in that quarter; but it will, in such case, be my great object to secure to my people the continuance of peace.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,— The measures by which in the last Session of Parliament, you made provision for the expences of my Civil Government, and for the honour and dignity of the Crown, demand my warmest acknowledgements.—I have directed that the Estimates for the current year shall be laid before you; and it is a satisfaction to me to have been enabled to make some reduction in our Military Establishments.—You will observe from the Accounts of the Public Revenue, that notwithstanding the Receipts in Ireland have proved materially deficient, in consequence of the unfortunate circumstances which have affected the Commercial Credit of that part of the United Kingdom, and although our Foreign Trade, during the early part of this time, was in a state of depression; the total Revenue has, nevertheless, exceeded that of the preceding year.—A considerable part of this increase must be ascribed to the new Taxes; but in some of those

branches which are the surest indications of internal wealth, the augmentation has fully realised any expectation which could have been reasonably formed of it.—The separate provision which was made for the Queen, as Princess of Wales, in the year 1814, terminated with the demise of his late Majesty.—I have, in the mean time, directed advances as authorised by law; and it will, under present circumstances, be for you to consider what new arrangements should be made on this subject.

My Lords and Gentlemen,— I have great pleasure in being able to acquaint you, that a considerable improvement has taken place within the last half year in several of the most important branches of our commerce and manufactures; and that, in many of the manufacturing districts, the distresses which prevailed at the commencement of the last session of Parliament have greatly abated. It will be my most anxious desire to concur in every measure which may be considered as calculated to advance our internal prosperity. I well know that, notwithstanding the agitation produced by temporary circumstances, and amidst the distress which still presses upon a large portion of my

subjects, the firmest reliance may be placed on that affectionate and loyal attachment to my Person and Government, of which I have recently received so many testimonials from all parts of my kingdom; and which, whilst it is most grateful to the strongest feelings of my heart, I shall ever consider as the best and surest safeguard of my Throne. In the discharge of the important duties imposed on you, you will, I am confident, be sensible of the indispensable necessity of promoting and maintaining, to the utmost of your power, a due obedience to the laws, and of instilling into all classes of my subjects, a respect for lawful authority, and for those established Institutions under which the Country has been enabled to overcome so many difficulties, and to which, under Providence, may be ascribed our happiness and renown, as a Nation.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

LORD BELMORE moved the address, which was seconded by LORD PRUDHOE, both of whom confined themselves to mere praises

of the Speech and congratulations on the prospects it held forth.—EARL GREY went a little into the state of the country; complained of the silence of the Speech on many important matters; and insisted, that the *whole system* ought to be changed, and, especially, that the *Six-acts* ought to be instantly repealed. His Lordship adverted to the state of *agriculture*, and expressed his doubts relative to the alledged improvement in *Commerce* and *Manufactures*. He also complained, as did LORD HOLLAND afterwards, of want of explicitness, in the Speech, with regard to *Naples* and *Austria*.—The EARL OF LIVERPOOL answered Earl Grey; or, at least, he spoke on the topics introduced by the former; and as to a change of system, said that there might be *parts* of the system to correct; but, that he hoped no revolutionary change was contemplated by any one. He seemed to say that *no new loan* would be wanted this year; and glanced at Ame-

rica, as presenting a contrast, triumphant to this country!—This is a matter, upon which some *commentary* will be called for.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MR. BANKES, JUN. proposed the address, and was seconded by Mr. BROWN, Member for Mayo.—MR. BANKES did not observe the same neutral part, as to party, that was observed by the mover in the Lords. He went into topics, from which the *Speech* had carefully abstained. He alluded, in pretty broad terms against persons, whom he did not name, but whom he described under the appellation of the *spirit of mischief*; and he came at last, to speak of that *sedition* and *blasphemy*, of which the *speech* had said not a word, and of which the *loyal Addresses*

were so full. He touched also upon Reform; and did not forget to repeat pretty nearly what his father said, in the last Session of Parliament, respecting the *education*, given to the people, having been made a *weapon* of offence against those who introduced the instruction. This speech was too remarkable not to be worthy of particular attention; and, therefore, I insert the following extract from it, which I take from the *Morning Chronicle*.

“ Folly may, no doubt, discharge its debt to such a March by ingratitude; whilst the spirit of mischief, incapable of any gratitude, would renew its hostility against the power that defeated its malignant designs, and endeavour to disturb the tranquillity of the peace-maker. In war, that spirit was seen anxious for disaster, with all its hope bent on evil. In peace, the same spirit was to be traced more acerbated and restless, “ walk-

“ ing through the dry places of “ earth,” seeking to disturb and “ to destroy. It was that spirit “ that during the vicissitudes of “ the late war was ever ready to “ excise and to palliate the enor- “ mities of the author of all the “ calamities of Europe; but “ though baffled in every pro- “ phecy it had made, it was still “ ready to invest with new attri- “ butes every new disturber of “ the public peace. If it be true “ of national renown, to secure “ an honourable security and “ allegiance at home, there still “ were circumstances in such a “ state of things, calculated to “ work a change in the national “ character. Renown in war “ was too likely to create a rest- “ less desire for public triumphs, “ to give a stimulus to that chi- “ valry which delighted in the “ plumed steed and polished ar- “ mour. It may be well, however, “ for a Prince to estimate duly “ all the grounds of such a “ course before he entered on a “ war. In defensive war there

“ was no alternative but perse- “ verance under every peril, or “ submission with degradation. “ If a Monarch should have “ gloriously adopted the former “ course; if he should have done “ all that the safety and glory “ of his people should have re- “ quired, it was no small draw- “ back that could cancel such “ an obligation [hear, hear, hear!] “—But what if it should ap- “ pear that at the same time it “ was endeavoured to dispel the “ evils of ignorance, to extend “ instruction, where ignorance “ before prevailed, and that too “ frequently the new springs of “ knowledge were endeavoured “ to be poisoned at their source, “ “ That was the unkindest cut “ of all.” To dispel ignorance “ by instruction—to enlighten, “ in order to amend—and after “ all, to find the new acquisition “ converted into a weapon of “ offence against those who in- “ troduced the instruction, was “ a most mortifying reflection. “ He was reminded of the line

“ of the Poet, when he ex-
“ pressed the keen pangs of
“ the bird, wounded by the
“ arrow, feathered from his own
“ wing :

“ His was the lot, a keener pang to feel,
“ He nursed the pinion that could bear
“ the steel.”

“ It was no new thing for slan-
“ der to arraign all that was high
“ and solemn in the land. But
“ it remained for the present
“ times to see the extent to which
“ it would proceed. The libel-
“ ler that now assailed the cha-
“ racter of all that was elevated
“ and dignified in the land,
“ would soon direct his malignant
“ desires at property and life.
“ The venerable institutions of
“ the country may for a time re-
“ pel its approach—Blasphemy
“ may be repulsed from the
“ sanctuary of the temple, but
“ the effect of such a public pol-
“ lution, unless repressed, the
“ ruin must come at last [hear,
“ hear!]. The same shows, the
“ same pageants, that charac-
“ terised the present day, were

“ those of the last year. The
“ music, the march, and the ban-
“ ner, were the order of that pe-
“ riod. The same kind of meet-
“ ings, proceeding from the
“ same origin, and professing
“ the same ultimate tendency;
“ with this difference, that the
“ denunciations of the last year
“ were against the Aristocracy
“ —of the present, against the
“ Crown. If they turned their
“ eyes to their foreign relations,
“ they would have the gratifica-
“ tion of seeing, with regard to
“ Great Britain, a whole world
“ of calm tranquillity, with the
“ hand of busy industry plying
“ in every port. There were,
“ however, some men who were
“ indifferent to those blessings—
“ who, in the perverseness of
“ their obstinacy, refused to en-
“ joy the good that resulted
“ from the system of which they
“ had been ever complaining.
“ But that voice of clamour was
“ well known; it was the same
“ cry that called for a Reform,
“ which they at the same time

“ admitted to be impracticable ;
“ it was the cry which refused
“ that protection to the agricul-
“ tural interest under which alone
“ the agricultural labourer was
“ enabled to obtain his daily
“ bread. It was a firm spirit of
“ resistance that such clamour
“ was before repressed ; when-
“ ever it re-appeared, activity
“ was a duty, and the supineness
“ of loyalty was cowardice. There
“ were some men of high rank
“ and distinguished talents who
“ had freely confessed that more
“ mature consideration would not
“ allow them to proceed to that
“ length on the question of Re-
“ form, which youthful ardour
“ had once led them to avow. It
“ would be well for such men to
“ direct their views to the future
“ as the past. It was for them to
“ reflect on the probable effect of
“ those broad expressions let into
“ willing ears that would be shut
“ against the subsequent expla-
“ nation. The breach of that
“ cordial confidence that hither-
“ to existed between all the or-

“ ders of this great community
“ would be an evil that could
“ not be repaired.” ----- After
the mover and seconder came
Mr. CURWEN, who severely
condemned the conduct of the
Ministry, as to the whole series
of their measures ; who said that
they had ruined the country ; who
also said that a Reform of the
Parliament was necessary ; and
who concluded by insisting on
the necessity of immediately tak-
ing into consideration the state
of the agriculture of the country.
—Mr. TIERNEY, who followed,
said nothing about Reform of
Parliament. He denied that the
country, was in a state of growing
prosperity ; and condemned, as
usual, the general conduct of the
Ministers. — Lord Castlereagh,
in his answer, said very little
worthy of particular notice, ex-
cept that he declared that *that house spoke the voice of the people* ;
and that he and his colleagues
would abide by the decision of
that house as to whether they
should remain in power or not.

His confident expectation was, however, that the house would decide in their favour.—**LORD FOLKESTONE** observed, that however much provoked to do so by some of the topics which the Noble Lord had introduced into his speech, he would not detain the house for any length of time. “He certainly did not entertain much hope that the country would get rid of the Noble Lord if it depended on that House. So long as the influence of Government was exercised in that House; that was, so long as the House was constituted as it was, so long he had no doubt the Noble Lord would enjoy the confidence and support of that House in spite of the opinion of the country. He dared to say the Noble Lord, or his Right Honorable Friends, could shew them in black and white how well their trust in the confidence of the House was founded. He dared to say that the Gentlemen of the Treasury, if they exhi-

bited the correspondence which usually took place before the meeting of Parliament, would afford a very satisfactory reason for the expectation of Ministers on the subject. But if the Noble Lord relied on the confidence of the country—if he thought, that because he possessed the confidence of the Sovereign and of that House he therefore possessed the confidence of the country, he would find that he was very much mistaken.”— His Lordship, in speaking of the loyal Addresses, which have been inserted in the *Gazette* by **Lord Sidmouth**, mentioned one, coming from a set of clergymen, containing the following passage. It stated that the addressers had witnessed with much regret the spirit of disaffection so prevalent in the country, and especially the violent and unconstitutional speeches of the Opposition in both Houses of Parliament, and that they could not refrain from expressing

" their indignation at the insolence of certain Members of the Opposition on the Prorogation of Parliament; persuaded as they were that if such conduct were to pass unnoticed in the representatives of the people, that nothing less than general sedition could be expected in the country." His lordship spoke of this as a daring breach of the privilege of parliament. In the course of his speech he adverted to the state of the currency, and said that " it was impossible the country could bear the return to cash payments, without a previous alteration in the gold standard."

After this the Address was carried without a division. There was a previous debate on a motion of Mr. WETHERELL for the production of Official papers relative to the Liturgy. On this motion Lord Castlereagh moved the previous question, which was carried by a majority of ninety one in favour of the Ministers.

NEXT REGISTER

Will contain a Letter to LORD LIVERPOOL on the justice and necessity of an immediate reduction of all Salaries and other fixed sums, paid out of the taxes; and a Letter to LORD FOLKESTONE on his proposed *reduction of the Gold Standard*, and with regard to which his Lordship appears to me to be wholly in error; that is to say, as to the effects, for as to the principle, on which the proposition is founded, that is perfectly correct. This is the *grand question!* All the difficulties will soon be found to merge in that of the *money*.. It will, I think, be decided, in the space of *three months*, whether the *Fundholders* be *to have the land* or not.—The *paper-men* and the *bullion-men* are both wrong; the *Bank* and the *Oracle*, though directly opposed, are equally distant from the truth. At any rate, thank God, this long war of opinions is now drawing to a *close*. The end of three months will leave nothing.

QUEEN'S ANSWER

TO

THE CITY OF LONDON,

Monday, 21st Jan. 1821.

“ I should be insensible to the value of honesty, and independence, and cold to all the impulses of gratitude, if I were not deeply impressed by this affectionate Address from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of London.

“ I am convinced that the conspiracy which have been so long contriving the means of my destruction, originated with the same faction which has for so many years been unremittingly employed in sapping the foundations, and destroying the pillars of British liberty.

“ If it is my destiny to have enemies, it is my glory that my enemies are the same as those of the people. If my foes had been the people's friends, I might have felt some compunction in thinking

that my sentiments were less favourable than they ought to be to the freedom and welfare of mankind. But at present my bosom glows with a sweet self satisfaction, when I reflect that the Queen and the nation have the same friends and the same foes.

“ The most unsophisticated and most permanent friendship, is that in which there is a similitude of affections and an identity of interests. I am convinced that it is a friendship of this kind which has cemented a solid union between me and the people. We both love liberty! We both abhor servitude! We consider one as the ornament, the solace and the happiness, the other as the ignominy, the curse and the misery of civilized man.

“ If these were not my fixed sentiments, I should indeed be an unworthy descendant of that Family who owed their elevation to the throne of these kingdoms, to the least doubtful of all titles—the will of the people.”

LAW AS TO CHRISTIANITY.

To the Editor of Cobbett's Weekly Register.

SIR,

In the course of several reported trials, it has been maintained and decided, 1st. That Christianity was and is embodied with the Common Law of England, and 2ndly, so blended and incorporated with it, that to deny, or even to question the divine origin of the Christian system, by writing or speech, is an offence against the Common Law punishable by fine and imprisonment.

As a Common-law Lawyer, I shall endeavour in this letter, to state to my brethren of the profession in England, through the medium of your paper, my reasons for thinking that the true meaning and spirit of our Common Law have not been sufficiently attended to in discussing and deciding, the cases which have occurred upon this subject.

The Common Law of England is a collection of rules relating to the actions and property of Englishmen, which rules are derived from obvious necessity, established by general consent, evidenced by immemorial usage, and adapted by analogy of prin-

iple and practice to the exigencies of Society, as such have arisen or may from time to time arise in England.—Christianity, it is clear, could have made no part of the primitive and genuine Common Law of England, because that Common Law was established, many centuries before the knowledge of Christianity in England, and after the introduction of the Christian doctrine into England, Christianity could not have been engrafted upon, nor have been made to spring from, the old Common Law; unless previously to such introduction, there existed a Common Law rule or practice distinctly known and acted upon,—to the effect, “that whatever system of religion was professed by the Governing Authorities of England, should be considered as part of the establishment of the State; and that any word, writing or act, tending to bring such system of religion for the time being into disrepute, or to cause its overthrow, and the introduction of another form of worship, should be punished as a crime.”

I conceive that such a principle has been in these reported trials, erroneously ascribed to our Common Law, because it was

unknown to, and cannot be derived from the Common Law of our Anglo-Saxon ancestors. In their early times, neither Heathenism, nor Druidism, nor any other system of theology was ever incorporated with the Common Law, or allied with the existing government, or at least never so incorporated, or allied, as that to discuss its merits, or question its claim to human veneration, was a crime; on the contrary, it appears that the genuine Common Law, and the Briton and Anglo-Saxon governments from time to time freely permitted the promulgation and discussion of religious opinions, though partially or totally repugnant to the then existing religion of the Government and people.

If such an incorporation of the State, religion and the Common Law existed, or *if a principle authorising such an incorporation, had been known and established*, then Druidism and Paganism in the early periods of the Common Law, would have been publicly recognized by Kings, Judges, and Magistrates for the time being, as a part of it;—and the denial or the questioning of the divine origin of Druidism or Paganism by the first Christian Missionaries would

undoubtedly have been treated and punished as a criminal act, in the same manner, as in later times the denial or questioning of the divine origin of Christianity has been. The Heathen and Druid ecclesiastics would have soon stigmatised Saint Augustine as a blasphemer, the King's lawyers would have brought him before the Aula Regis, and the Aula Regis would have sentenced him to heavy penalties, and a long imprisonment.

To shew that my statement of our genuine Common Law, as applicable to matters of a controversial religious nature is supported by principle and by fact, I will refer you, for the establishment of my principle, to Blackstone in the introduction to his *Commentaries*, supported by Fortescue, who fully define the origin, rules and nature of the Common Law in its primitive and unadulterated state; and I will, for the first case decided upon the point, refer you to Hume and Rapin supported by Bede, who distinctly report the ever memorable circumstances attending the first preaching of the Christian doctrines in opposition to the then prevailing religion of the Anglo-Saxons,

which was Paganism or Druidism.

The following is a literal extract from Hume's History of England, vol. 1st, chap. 1st,— and if you should not deem it too long for your limits, it is well worthy of insertion.

“Pope Gregory being ambitious to distinguish his pontificate, by the conversion of the British Saxons, pitched on Augustine, a Roman Monk; and sent him with forty associates to preach the gospel in this Island. Augustine on his arrival in Kent in the year 597, found the danger much less, than he had apprehended, King Ethelbert, already well disposed towards the Christian faith, assigned him an habitation in the Isle of Thanet, and soon after admitted him to a conference.—Apprehensive, however, that spells or enchantments might be employed against him by Priests, who brought an unknown worship from a distant country, he had the precaution of receiving him in the open air, where he believed the force of their magic would be more easily dissipated. Here Augustine, by means of his interpreters, delivered to him the tenets of

“the Christian faith, and promised him, eternal joys above, and a kingdom in heaven without end, if he would be persuaded to receive that salutary doctrine.”

“Your words and promises,” replied Ethelbert, “are fair, but because they are new and uncertain, I cannot entirely yield to them, and relinquish the principles, which I and my ancestors have so long maintained. You are welcome, however, to remain here in peace, and as you have undertaken so long a journey, solely, as it appears, for what you believe to be for our advantage, I will supply you with all necessaries, and permit you to deliver your doctrine to my subjects.”

Thus it appears, that the avowed adversaries of the then established form of worship, instead of being prosecuted under the common law as irreligious disturbers and blasphemers, were welcomed by the magistrates, and were opposed by the then established Clergy, with no other weapons than those of argument and persuasion. The Druid and Heathen Ecclesiastics shewed no angry feelings, no consciousness of the

weakness of their doctrines, no aversion to enquiry, and never attempted to silence or crush their theological antagonists by banishment, imprisonment or death.

Ethelbert as monarch and chief magistrate of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Kent on this solemn occasion publicly declared the true rule of the Common Law of England, which was and is as I conceive,— 'That the free discussion and investigation of the truth of the established religion whatever it is, should be permitted, if such discussion and investigation be conducted peaceably and decorously, and tends to the advantage of the public by the

removal of error, and the introduction of truth.'

To the mild, unpersecuting spirit of that Common Law, thus declared, we are indebted for the many, very important benefits of Christianity, and without violating the liberal spirit of that Law in my apprehension, no prosecution for religious opinions, whether partially or totally contradictory to the established system of doctrine, can now be maintained.

Yours, &c.

JURIDICUS HIBERNICUS

Dublin, January 15, 1821.